



**AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION RULE OF LAW INITIATIVE
SUPPORT FOR LAW SCHOOLS, BAR ASSOCIATIONS
AND JUDICIAL EXCHANGES IN MEXICO PROGRAM
QUARTERLY REPORT
CY 2011, QUARTER #3
NARRATIVE
AID-523-10-A-00001**

A. INTRODUCTION

Together with the enclosed results matrix, this is the American Bar Association Rule of Law Initiative's ("ABA ROLI") fifth Quarterly Report of the *Support for Law Schools, Bar Associations and Judicial Exchanges in Mexico Program* ("Program") funded by the United States Agency for International Development ("USAID"). The report includes Program background, personnel updates, and a results summary, along with five (5) attachments, and activity details in the accompanying results matrix.

This report covers the period of June-September 2011. It is based upon the corresponding work plan approved by USAID on December 10, 2010.

Executive Summary

During this quarter, the Program has focused on planning and executing the following activities according to its work plan: (i) the completion of a week-long study tour to Chicago for members of its Working Group; (ii) the completion of the third oral advocacy training in Mexicali, Baja California; (iii) the second "Sister Courthouse" visit to San Diego, California; (iv) a series of presentations on the implementation of the accusatorial system and the development of trial advocacy skills in Mexico City and Monterrey, Nuevo Leon; (v) the completion of the first drafts of the Legal Education Reform Index and Legal Profession Reform Index and launch of their peer review; (vi) logistical arrangements for the fourth "Sister Courthouse" visit to El Paso, Texas in CY2012; and lastly, (vii) preliminary arrangements for the upcoming fourth and fifth oral advocacy trainings scheduled to take place next quarter in Oaxaca and Guanajuato. In addition, the Program maintained close contact with the *Secretaría Técnica del Consejo de Coordinación para la Implementación del Sistema de Justicia Penal* ("SETEC"), an institution which has maintained regular attendance at the Program's Working Group meetings and has been duly informed of all programmatic activities. Moreover, the Program has continued meeting with the senior staff of Management Systems International ("MSI") and other USAID/TIES partners in order to coordinate the Program's activities with existing complementary initiatives to facilitate high impact and sustainable results.

Program Background

The Program, supported by a USAID cooperative agreement awarded on June 3, 2010, aims to work closely with Mexican private and public justice sector operators to: 1) create a sustainable mechanism to alleviate the state and federal government burden of retraining current and future justice operators in the new criminal justice system; and 2) enhance the ability of attorneys and judges to effectively and efficiently litigate and adjudicate cases, protect individual rights with appropriate accountability, and implement reforms effectively and rapidly.

The Mexican justice sector is at a critical juncture in its implementation of the accusatorial system. As is typical of such transitions, it has achieved notable successes while also encountering obstacles since the reform process was first ratified by President Felipe Calderon in 2008. To help promote effective implementation of the system going forward, the Program's efforts are oriented towards supporting private and public justice sector members' understanding of the dynamics underlying the accusatorial system and the substantial role they play in it, and actively engage in this process. This is particularly important in light of the federal government's submission of a draft Federal Criminal Procedure Code to Congress in September 2011 in a move to solidify the constitutional reform adopted in 2008. Since the draft federal code will be largely seen as the model for many of the states that have not yet approved their own secondary legislation, it is crucial that all sectors of society, with interests at both the state and federal level, become actively involved in the debate. As such, the federal code represents a bridge to promote coordination of efforts between federal and state authorities seeking to implement the accusatorial system in Mexico.

The Program supports the Mexican justice sector in its transition to an accusatorial legal system by:

- Establishing a Working Group to promote local ownership of reforms and training;
- Supporting bar associations via:
 - Conducting an assessment of the legal profession to serve as the basis for recommendations for reform;
 - Training on skills for the system; and
 - Leading a bar association study tour.
- Supporting law schools via:
 - Conducting an assessment of the legal education to serve as the basis for recommendations for reform;
 - Training on skills for the oral, adversarial system; and
 - Leading a law school study tour.
- Conducting judicial exchanges via:

- Supporting professional peer exchanges, including “Sister Courthouse” visits; and
- Awarding a follow-on subgrant to ensure program sustainability beyond the life of the program.

Personnel

Resident Program staff includes Country Director, Mr. Alonso González Villalobos; Deputy Country Director, Ms. Katia Ornelas Núñez; Field Financial Manager, Ms. Gabriela Cruz Ortiz; and the Program’s Administrative Assistant, Ms. Sandra Quintana Hamelius, who resigned on September 15, 2011. In addition, the Program’s first intern, Ms. Mara Medina, who provided research and programmatic support, finished her internship in August 2011, and will be replaced at the beginning of next quarter by Ms. Emily Winston.

The Program is supported in Washington, D.C. by the Latin America and the Caribbean Division, including Michael McCullough, Director; Chantal Agarwal, Program Manager; Jeremy Biddle, Program Officer; and Cynthia Arévalo, who joined as Administrative Assistant in August, 2011. Adriana Courembis accompanied the Program as Program Associate through July 2011.

B. RESULTS SUMMARY

Working Group for Legal Education & Legal Profession Reform

During the reporting period, members of the Working Group for Legal Education and Legal Profession Reform (“Working Group”) demonstrated a high level of engagement with the Program through their participation in various programmatic activities; and likewise, the Program regularly informed members of its activities. Two examples illustrate this engagement of Working Group members with the Program:

- (i) Their participation in a week-long study tour to Chicago that began on June 26 and ended on July 2, 2011. The details and highlights of this activity, entitled “A Look at Legal Education, the Legal Profession and the Legal System in the U.S.,” were reported extensively in last quarter’s report and will be reported further in the “Support for Bar Associations” and “Support for Law Schools” sections below; and
- (ii) Their active involvement in the peer review of the first drafts of the Legal Education Reform and Legal Profession Reform Indices, which was launched in September 2011, and involved a plenary meeting, which will be discussed in the “Support for Bar Associations” and “Support for Law Schools” sections below.

These activities further secured the buy-in of the Working Group members, who are shaping the current discourse in Mexico with regards to the judicial reforms. In addition,

throughout the current reporting period, the Program met regularly with the heads of the *Ilustre y Nacional Colegio de Abogados*, the *Barra Mexicana Colegio de Abogados*, and the *Asociación Nacional de Abogados de Empresa* (“ANADE”) to discuss collaborative efforts. During these consultations, the Program engaged in informational exchanges and expanded its network of contacts.

Finally, in support of one of the Program’s key partners, ABA ROLI invited and sponsored Working Group member and ANADE president, Mr. Gerardo Nieto, to participate in the ABA Annual Meeting in Toronto, which took place from August 4-9, 2011. Mr. Nieto attended as a distinguished guest and keynote speaker on the panel entitled, “The Role of Lawyers During Times of Transition—Lessons from Mexico, Nepal and the Middle East,” on August 6, 2011. This panel convened ROLI speakers from overseas to consider the various roles of lawyers during times of legal, political and social transitions. Mr. Nieto presented lessons from Mexico’s efforts to strengthen the country’s legal profession, including the challenges ahead and the role played by lawyers in the transition to the adversarial legal system. This was the first time this topic has been presented at an ABA Annual Meeting since the passing of the constitutional reforms in 2008. Some 8,000 ABA members and supporters from around the world attended the Annual Meeting.

Support for Bar Associations

Legal Profession Reform Index

As outlined in the Program’s work plan, the Legal Profession Reform Index (“LPRI”) is an assessment tool which utilizes 24 qualitative factors to examine thematic areas such as admission to the profession, standards of practice, professional ethics and conduct, governance and independence of bar associations, and licensing.

This quarter, the Program finalized a preliminary draft of the report, translated it to Spanish, and launched its peer review process among members of the Working Group.



Working Group members share views on the draft assessments during the peer review session on September 28, 2011.

On Monday, September 19, 2011, the Program circulated the Spanish-language draft assessment to Working Group members and garnered their feedback prior to the next

Working Group meeting, held on Wednesday, September 28, 2011. Thirty-four participants, representing 27 different institutions involved in the fields of legal education and the legal profession in Mexico, in addition to a representative of USAID/Mexico, attended the meeting. Participants discussed the draft LPRI, along with its parallel Legal Education Reform Index. Please see Attachment A for a complete list of attendees.



Country Director, Alonso González Villalobos (far right) presents the peer review methodology for the meeting.

While Working Group members' observations allowed for important corrections and clarifications, the report's contents were largely accepted with no major objections from peer reviewers. Further, participants' comments demonstrated their opinion that the LPRI has the potential to positively impact the legal profession in Mexico. In addition, the meeting was critical in providing Working Group members greater insight into the topics discussed in the LPRI, informing the report's content, and securing buy-in among key

counterparts for the final report, which is scheduled for release in Q1 CY2012. This meeting was held at the offices of ANADE, which hosted the event at no cost, saving the Program approximately \$803.97 USD in cost share.¹

It should be noted that other components of the Program have helped enrich the Working Group's peer review of the LPRI. For example, the study tour to Chicago, described below, allowed the Program's Working Group members to meet with their U.S. counterparts to gain a deeper understanding of the U.S. legal system. The insights gained during this trip, in turn, were invaluable in stimulating the critical reflection and dialogue needed to support the Working Group's peer review of the draft LPRI, and will also underpin the subsequent creation of the "Reform Guide for Legal Profession and Legal Education in Mexico."

Curriculum Development and Training

During the reporting period, Program staff, in conjunction with Working Group members,

¹ The total was originally recorded as \$10,811.50 MXP. The figure of \$803.97 USD is based on Oanda.com's exchange rate for the day of the meeting, September 28, 2011. It should be noted that Working Group members' time contributed to this effort is being calculated and will be reflected in the next quarterly report.

reviewed and refined the training materials used this quarter for the Program's third trial advocacy training in Mexicali based on feedback from prior trainings. Changes aim to better reflect the current reality in states where trainings were conducted, including modifications to their criminal procedural codes. As explained in previous reports, these workshops last five days, the first four of which are dedicated to instruction, demonstration and practice, while the last day is reserved for a mock trial proceeding in which students apply the lessons learned throughout the week. ABA ROLI's trainings are unique (with respect to other institutional programs, national or international) in at least four regards:

- (i) Trainings are interdisciplinary, designed for law school faculty, advanced law students, and private practitioners, in order to bolster their collective understanding of key oral advocacy skills required under the country's new criminal justice system and to maximum reach and sustainability;
- (ii) Each training includes a day-long orientation for international and national trainers provided by ABA ROLI Mexico staff on the 2008 constitutional reform, highlighting challenges and accomplishments, as well as any issues relevant to the state where the training is held. This is to ensure that prior to appearing before the group, all trainers have a reasonably well-balanced understanding of the current situation, both on a local and national level;
- (iii) The training starts off by devoting the first two modules to describing the 2008 constitutional reform, and emphasizing the importance of ethics in the accusatorial system. Both topics are again reviewed in the training's closing session; and
- (iv) The team of trainers includes a mix of international² and Mexican³ trainers. This approach helps the Program maintain a balance between local operators and trainers from other cultural, legal and social realities.

Moreover, the Program met for a second time with SETEC's Deputy Director for Training in order to continue exploring the possibility of having SETEC'S endorsement for ABA ROLI's training materials. In this meeting SETEC confirmed its appreciation for the training the Program is implementing and reiterated its interest in maintaining contact with ABA ROLI to keep apprised of the Program's activities.

Third Training on Trial Advocacy Skills Successfully Completed in Mexico City

From Tuesday, August 30, 2011, through Saturday, September 3, 2011, ABA ROLI held its third training on trial advocacy skills in Mexicali at the *Universidad Autónoma de Baja California*, which hosted the event at no cost, saving the Program an estimated \$1,443.5

² From the U.S., Puerto Rico, Colombia, Argentina, Chile and elsewhere.

³ The majority of whom are past beneficiaries of USAID or other U.S.-funded training programs.



A trainer at the Mexicali workshop guides a small group discussion on the preparation of a mock trial.

substantive knowledge gain at the Mexicali training. The evaluation was based upon pre- and post-training testing which was conducted in order to gauge the workshop's impact. The results indicate that the workshop dramatically increased participants' theoretical knowledge and practical understanding of the accusatorial system and oral advocacy skills. For example, when surveyed on knowledge of the accusatorial system, only 31% of pre-training respondents answered that they were "good" or "great." After the training, that percentage jumped to 81%. Further, all participants expressed their strong interest

USD.⁴ Twenty-seven private practitioners and law faculty convened by various bar associations and law schools throughout Baja California attended the workshop. The *Federación Estatal de Colegios, Barras y Asociaciones de Abogados de Baja California, A.C.*, supported the training and provided coffee breaks free of cost for savings of \$874.58 USD to the Program.⁵

During the planning stages, ABA ROLI carefully selected a team of experts from its roster of trainers in preparation for the workshop. Trainers are evaluated based on credentials, previous experience in oral litigation trainings in Latin America, Spanish language proficiency and knowledge of Mexico's criminal justice system. Of the 20 applications received, three international trainers - two American and one Colombian - and two Mexicans were selected to lead the training. Program staff also taught portions of the agenda.

With the support of USAID/Mexico, the Program designed and implemented a pilot evaluation of



Participants in Mexicali actively engage with trainers to clarify doubts about the accusatorial system.

⁴ The total was originally recorded as \$17,825 MXP. The figure of \$1,443.5 USD is based on Oanda.com's exchange rate for the last day of the training, September 3, 2011.

⁵ The total was originally recorded as \$10,800 MXP. The figure of \$874.58 USD is based on Oanda.com's exchange rate for the last day of the training, September 3, 2011.

in attending future trainings. Based on these results, the Program plans to continue improving the evaluation for use in future trainings. See Attachment B for detailed evaluation results.

Finally, during this quarter the Program made initial arrangements for its fourth and fifth trial advocacy skills workshops, slated to take place next quarter in Oaxaca and Guanajuato, respectively. This involved intense coordination with various law schools and bar association counterparts so as to secure their support and participation. In Oaxaca, all major local universities expressed their commitment to send select members of their faculties to the training, and the *Barra Mexicana, Colegio de Abogados de Oaxaca*, one of the most respected local bar associations, pledged its logistical support. In Guanajuato, the *Universidad de Guanajuato's* law school sent a formal letter to the Program confirming its intention to host the event, and a major bar association, the *Colegio de Abogados de Guanajuato*, expressed its willingness to assist in convening private sector attendees.

Study Tour for Bar Associations

Follow-on Activity

The Working Group study tour launched in Q2 was brought to a successful conclusion at the beginning of this quarter. Twenty-four Working Group members, all high-level law school and bar association representatives from ten Mexican cities, participated in the week-long study tour to Chicago, Illinois,. As reported in the Q2 report, the tour evoked many observations about similarities and differences in the U.S. and Mexican legal systems and cultures. As a follow-on activity and to



On the last day of the tour, participants attend a presentation on social responsibility by representatives of two leading Chicago law firms.

ensure sustainability, ABA facilitated the creation of a “Lessons Learned” document that synthesized the observations, and best practices taken away from the trip. In addition, this document helped inform Working Group members’ input into the LPRI and LERI peer review process. See Attachment C for the “Lessons Learned” document.

As reported previously, all local counterparts in Chicago offered their time to host the Mexican delegation *pro bono*. The updated total value of these in-kind contributions is \$58,595.50 USD.

Support for Law Schools

Legal Education Reform Index

As reported in prior quarters, the Legal Education Reform Index (“LERI”) is a qualitative diagnostic tool designed to assess a country’s legal education system based on 22 factors including licensing, accreditation, and evaluation of law schools; curriculum and teaching methodology; student evaluation and awarding of degrees; and institutional capacity.

This quarter, the Program finalized the first draft of the LERI in close consultation with LERI Assessor Mr. Luis Fernando Pérez Hurtado, head of the *Centro de Estudios sobre la Enseñanza y el Aprendizaje del Derecho*.

As with the LPRI, this quarter the LERI was translated to Spanish and submitted to the Working Group for peer review. This two-step process was conducted in parallel with the LPRI process.

The plenary Working Group meeting held on September 28, 2011 (reported above) was also devoted to discussing the LERI’s first draft. The meeting was critical in providing Working Group members with greater insight into the topics discussed in the LERI, informing the report’s content, and securing buy-in among key counterparts for the final report, scheduled for release in CY2012. As is the case for the LPRI, the Chicago study tour also contributed to Working Group members’ peer review of the LERI, and will be vital for the subsequent creation of the “Reform Guide for Legal Profession and Legal Education in Mexico,” both of which are scheduled to be released in Q1 CY2012.

Curriculum Development and Training

Curriculum development and most training for law schools were implemented in the same fashion as for bar associations. Given that these components are conducted jointly, please refer above to pages 5-7 of this report for further information.

In addition to the week-long trial advocacy trainings, this quarter the Program piloted four high-impact, minimal-cost events targeting law school faculty and students - one in Mexico City and three in Monterrey.

On Monday, September 12, 2011, the Program’s Director, Alonso González-Villalobos, made a presentation to approximately 45 law students comparing the processing of a hypothetical case under the accusatorial system versus the inquisitorial system. The event took place at *Tec de Monterrey, Campus Ciudad de México*, at the request of a group of law student representatives of the *Grupo Estudiantil Oral Ludicum*, a student

body dedicated to the study of the accusatorial system. Students were presented with the practical benefits of supporting the transformation of Mexico's criminal justice system.

Between September 20-21, 2011, select Program staff travelled to Monterrey to meet with Mr. Thomas Delaney, USAID/Mexico's new Mission Director. Capitalizing on this visit, ABA ROLI held three events at no additional cost to the Program.

On Tuesday, September 20, 2011, ABA ROLI made a 1.5-hour-long presentation to over 160 law students and faculty from the *Universidad Autónoma de Nuevo León's* law school on the topic of basic oral advocacy skills. Michael McCullough, Director of ABA ROLI's



Michael McCullough presents to students at the *Universidad Autónoma de Nuevo León's* law school in Monterrey.

Latin American and the Caribbean Division, introduced the audience to ABA ROLI's training methodology aimed to help attendees understand the basic concepts of and skills needed for the accusatorial system. The presentation was based on a hypothetical case that cast the audience in the roles of the prosecution and the defense. Particularly interesting, this event was also attended by students and faculty from the Criminology Department, who are currently engaged in analyzing the impact of the 2008

constitutional reform on to the role of criminologists in Mexico.

Following the presentation, ABA ROLI met with a group of over 12 members of the law school's faculty to discuss comparative experiences in implementing the accusatorial system throughout Mexico and Latin America. Local participants shared their impressions on the status of reform in Nuevo León, while Mr. McCullough and Mr. González-Villalobos presented on the comparative perspective. The discussion was designed to stimulate thinking on challenges ahead and explore the best ways to approach them.

The following day, Wednesday, September 21, 2011, Mr. McCullough delivered the same presentation as he had the day before to an audience of over 60 local practitioners and law students convened by the *Barra Mexicana, Colegio de Abogados, Capítulo Nuevo León* and the *Facultad Libre de Derecho*. Audience members had an opportunity to discuss the implications of the accusatorial system in Nuevo León with Mr. McCullough and among themselves. Students also took advantage to clarify some issues regarding

theory of the case and opening statements based on a hypothetical case presented to them.

Study Tour for Law Schools

This activity has been completed. As mentioned previously, this component was combined with the bar association study tour to: (i) ensure that the inter-related topics of legal profession and legal education reform are explored in a holistic manner; (ii) maximize resources; and (iii) foster continued dialogue and strengthen ties between Working Group members and, by extension, Mexican bar associations and law schools. More details of the Working Group study tour are provided on page 8 of this report. Additionally, the portion of the study tour most relevant to law school representatives took place on the first day and, as such, was reported in the Program's previous quarterly report.

Judicial Exchanges

Professional Peer Exchanges

During this quarter, the Program coordinated and carried out its second "Sister Courthouse" exchange to San Diego, California, described below.

Sister Courthouses

The Program's second "Sister Courthouse" visit to San Diego, California was carried out on August 11-12, 2011. This two-day exchange brought 14 Mexican judges to San Diego, where they were welcomed by a U.S. delegation of federal and state judges led by the Hon. Margaret McKeown, U.S. Judge for the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals and chair of ABA ROLI's Latin America and Caribbean Council. The Mexican delegation included pre-trial, trial and appellate judges from the state of Chihuahua.

The visit included attendance at various hearings in both state and federal courthouses, participating in roundtable discussions, and taking part in dinner meetings where both the Mexican and U.S. delegations had an opportunity to share their experiences in the accusatorial system and exchange insights into their respective realities. In addition, there was a meeting with San Diego-based public prosecutors and defense



Baja California Supreme Court Chief Justice María Esther Rentería speaks in Judge McKeown's chambers.

attorneys, who shared the challenges they have faced operating within the accusatorial system, as well as a visit to San Diego's federal detention center, where participants were able to interact with prison authorities and discuss the impact of the accusatorial system on precautionary measures, such as detention on remand. Delegation members were also able to meet with inmates who discussed the dynamics of their everyday life while in detention.

The Program's second "Sister Courthouse" visit to San Diego confirmed the value of facilitating direct contact between Mexican and U.S. judges through person-to-person exchange. The frank dialogue and open sharing of ideas between both delegations has enriched them both. A survey conducted at the end of the event confirms the real impact the exchange had on the Mexican delegation. For instance, 93% of Mexican participants thought that the creation of a permanent channel of communication between U.S. and Mexican judges was "fully useful" while the remaining 7% thought it was "highly useful." Please see Attachment D for detailed results.

In addition to the Mexican participants' enthusiastic feedback, the exchange was recognized by its U.S. hosts, who showcased it in an internal bulletin showing the material impact the Program has had on both sides of the border. The bulletin highlighted that "judges from Baja California, Mexico visited the courts in San Diego [...] sponsored by the ABA Rule of Law Initiative for Latin America and funded by the United States Agency for International Development ("USAID"). The judicial system in Mexico is transitioning to a system more similar to the U.S. justice system, hence the need for observation and collaboration with foreign counterparts." Please see Attachment E for the full text of the article.

It merits noting that due to scheduling difficulties among the host U.S.-based judges, the two exchanges originally slated for next quarter will be postponed to CY2012.

Study Tour – Judicial Sector

In this quarter, the Program continued exploring various options for its judicial study tour, and corresponded with Mexican state judges to continue gauging their interest in participating in such an exchange. Apparently, collective interest is inclined towards visiting countries such as Chile and Colombia, whose adversarial systems are viewed as closer to Mexico's own under the new constitutional reform. As reported in previous quarters, the purpose of such a tour will be to allow participants to gain first-hand, in-person experience of the everyday management of a court operating under the adversarial legal system. In upcoming quarters, the Program will continue laying the groundwork for the tour scheduled for CY2012.

Follow-on Subgrant(s)

No activities were conducted this quarter towards the planned sub-grant. Activities with the sub-grantee(s) will closely follow progress in the “Sister Courthouse” program and judicial study tour, as outlined in the Program’s work plan. These will be developed in conjunction with the Working Group and relevant state judiciary councils to promote continuity and sustainability.

Overall, during this quarter, as in previous ones, the Program witnessed tremendous progress towards its stated program objectives and its overarching goal of supporting the strengthening of the legal education and legal profession regimes. As outlined throughout this report, this quarter saw a number of major programmatic accomplishments. Below find special highlights on the most noteworthy.

Success Stories

Stemming from the activities reported above, the following two stories highlight the Program’s success in effecting meaningful change not only among its immediate Mexican counterparts, but also more generally throughout Mexico and across the border in the U.S.

Trial Advocacy Training Participants Launch Student Group to Promote the Transition to the Accusatorial System

The Program’s second trial advocacy training held at *Tec de Monterrey, Campus Ciudad de México* in Mexico City in May 2011 was successful because it made a strong impression on the university’s law student participants; it inspired them to establish a group whose sole mission is to promote the consolidation of the accusatorial system in Mexico through training events and court competitions.

Managed by students with law faculty guidance, the group intends to devise mechanisms to fund its own activities. The official launch of the *Grupo Estudiantil Oral Ludicium* took place on September 12, 2011 and the Program’s Country Director was invited as a guest of honor to deliver a keynote presentation to an audience comprised of the group’s members, their families and law school faculty. This marked increase in awareness



Alonso González Villalobos (center) joins members of student group *Oral Ludicium* for a photo.



regarding the transition to the accusatorial system among Mexican law students is a testimony to the effectiveness of the Program's trainings.

Working Group Study Tour to Chicago Inspires *Tec de Monterrey, Campus Ciudad de México* to Replicate Tour for Law Students

For some participants, the Working Group study tour was not just an enriching experience; it was a call to action. Beyond its value to high-level law school and bar association representatives, Working Group member and Dean of Law Programs at *Tec de Monterrey, Campus Ciudad de México* Paulo Arnoldo Ruiz García saw the tour as an imperative introduction to the accusatorial system for law students.

After returning from Chicago, Dean Ruiz requested the Program's support in preparing a similar tour for future lawyers. ABA ROLI happily embraced this project and reached out to most of its institutional contacts, who kindly agreed to host the student tour, scheduled to take place from October 15 through 22, 2011. The tour will allow 40 aspiring law students⁶ from *Tec de Monterrey's* high school to meet with the Chicago Bar Association, federal and state courts, the Chicago-Kent College of Law, among other legal and cultural institutions. *Tec de Monterrey* is offering this tour as a tool for these students to become acquainted with the accusatorial system and the U.S. legal system first hand.

As expressed by Dean Ruiz, a second tour targeting law students is already being planned for early CY2012. *Tec de Monterrey's* adoption and continuation of a Program activity like the Chicago study tour clearly demonstrates the sustainability of the Program's benefits, which are poised to have an impact on the Mexican legal landscape long after the life of the current grant.

⁶ All students are high school seniors studying International Law and Economy, aspiring to pursue law.